

Message Text

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E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB
SUBJ: SOHYO TEACHERS' UNION INVITES AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS
TO SEND REPRESENTATIVE TO CONVENTION

REF: TOKYO 0470

SUMMARY: NIKKYOSO FOR FIRST TIME HAS INVITED REPRESENTATIVE OF AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS TO ITS ANNUAL CONVENTION. CONVENTION AS USUAL WILL BE ONE OF JAPANESE LABOR'S LIVELIEST WITH ULTRA-RIGHTIST DEMONSTRATIONS ON OUTSIDE AND COMMUNIST ATTACKS ON MAKIEDA MAINLINE SOCIALIST LEADERSHIP INSIDE. AFFILIATION TO IFFTU WILL BE DISCUSSED BUT NOT VOTED ON. END SUMMARY.

1. NIKKYOSO (JAPAN TEACHER'S UNION; 620,000 MEMBERS; SOHYO AFFILIATE) FOR FIRST TIME HAS INVITED AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS (AFT; AFL-CIO) TO SEND A REPRESENTATIVE TO ITS ANNUAL CONVENTION TO BE HELD JULY 1 THROUGH 4. NIKKYOSO HAS LONG ESTABLISHED RELATIONS WITH NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION (REFTEL). IN JANUARY NIKKYOSO INTERNATIONAL BUREAU CHIEF YOSHIMURA TOLD ASST/LABATT HIS UNION'S TOP LEADERSHIP WOULD LIKE TO ESTABLISH SIMILAR RELATIONSHIP WITH AFT.

2. ULTRARIGHTIST GROUPS ARE EXPECTED THIS YEAR TO AGAIN STAGE DISRUPTIVE DEMONSTRATIONS OUTSIDE CONVENTION HALL. (NIKKYOSO MOVED SITE TO AKASHI NEAR KOBE AFTER HIROSHIMA CITY AUTHORITIES REFUSED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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TO PROVIDE HALL FOR FEAR OF POSSIBLE VIOLENCE).

3. INSIDE HALL, COMMUNIST DELEGATES WHO WILL CONSTITUTE ABOUT ONE THIRD OF THOSE PRESENT WILL AGAIN ATTACK PRESIDENT MAKIEDA AND

MAINLINE SOCIALIST FACTION ON VARIOUS IDEOLOGICAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL POINTS, INCLUDING PERENNIAL ISSUE OF CONTINUED EXCLUSIVE SUPPORT FOR SOCIALIST PARTY VERSUS COMMUNIST SUPPORTED "FREEDOM OF POLITICAL CHOICE," RESOLUTION, WHICH IMPLIES SELECTIVE NIKKYOSO PREFECTURAL CHAPTER SUPPORT FOR COMMUNIST POLITICAL CANDIDATES.

4. PRESIDENT MAKIEDA IS IN PARTICULARLY WEAK LEADERSHIP POSITION THIS YEAR AFTER GAINING STRIKE VOTE IN ONLY 19 OUT OF 47 PREFECTURES BY ONE OF LOWEST NATIONWIDE PERCENTAGES EVER. FOR FIRST TIME IN YEARS, NIKKYOSO CALLED OFF SYMBOLIC TWO-HOUR STRIKE WHICH WAS SCHEDULED TO COINCIDE WITH PEAK OF SOHYO'S SPRING STRUGGLE OFFENSIVE. REASONS FOR LOW STRIKE VOTE WERE (A) GRASSROOTS COMMUNIST CAMPAIGN AGAINST STRIKE. COMMUNISTS TAKE MODERATE POSITION THAT TEACHING IS A "SACRED TRUST." TEACHERS AS SPECIAL CATEGORY OF LABORER--PROFESSIONALS SHOULD WIN MASS (READ PARENT) SUPPORT BEFORE STRIKING, ARGUE COMMUNISTS, AND (B) LARGE, SPECIAL WAGE INCREASES GRANTED BY GOJ IN LAST THREE YEARS (ON TOP OF ANNUAL PERCENTAGE INCREASES GRANTED ALL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES) HAVE RAISED TEACHERS' SALARIES FAR ABOVE PREVIOUS LEVEL AND, NATURALLY, DRAINED RANK-AND-FILE MILITANCY. MAKIEDA MAY BE PARTLY TO BLAME FOR HIS OWN PREDICAMENT. WHILE CALLING FOR STRIKE VOTE, HE HAS ASSIDUOUSLY CULTIVATED CONCILIATORY RELATIONSHIP WITH PRESENT EDUCATION MINISTER NAGAI. (MAKIEDA'S PRIMARY GOAL IS TO RESTORE PAY CUTS TO FORMER NIKKYOSO STRIKE LEADERS, THEREBY REDUCING DRAIN ON NIKKYOSO BUDGET).

5. AFFILIATION OF NIKKYOSO TO THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF FREE TEACHERS' UNIONS (IFFTU) WILL BE ON AGENDA FOR DISCUSSION, BUT WILL NOT BE VOTED ON THIS YEAR. NIKKYOSO SOURCE SAYS IFFTU AFFILIATION MAY BE VOTED ON AT 1976 CONVENTION IF SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF PREFECTURAL UNIONS DO NOT REPEAT NOT RAISE OBJECTIONS.

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